

## STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Avenue SE • Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452 • (425) 649-7000

December 30, 2004

Dear Community Member,

RE: The Department of Ecology's Decision on Further Investigations at the Landsburg Mine site, Ravensdale, Washington

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) appreciates your continued interest in the Landsburg Mine site cleanup process and wants to keep you updated on recent developments about this site. This letter provides information on Ecology's decision in response to a request from the City of Kent for additional investigation of the site's possible effect on nearby groundwater.

As you may know, Ecology has not proceeded with the completion of the cleanup action plan. Ecology is committed to selecting a remedy that protects public safety, health and the environment, and is responsive to community concerns. The City of Kent, whose Clark Spring water source is half a mile from the south end of the former mine, requested further investigation of the hydrogeology and contaminant characterization of the site, and a re-evaluation of the PLP Group's cleanup alternative.

After serious consideration and thoughtful analysis of the complex scientific issues by a team of technical experts, Ecology recommends:

- The drilling of one or more deep wells to sample groundwater at the lowest level of the former mine
- Coordination among the PLP Group, the City and Ecology to decide on the details of this action.

Ecology believes the drilling and sampling of water deep within the former mine will provide additional data needed to assess the level of risk posed at the site. The collection and analysis of water samples from the deep wells will also provide information needed to address concerns about any potential threat to groundwater resources from contaminated materials disposed of at the site. To date, samples from numerous test wells and nearby private wells have shown no violations of drinking water standards or cleanup standards for ground water.

Ecology will use the deep well data to clarify or rule out lingering technical concerns of deep contamination at this site and its pathways in the subsurface.

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What's next? Ecology will meet with the PLP Group and City of Kent representatives to determine details of the well design and how it will be implemented. The next steps after the deep well installation will depend on the results of the sampling. The time needed to complete this will depend on whether the findings prompt additional investigations. We will update you on the findings.

When this additional investigation is complete, Ecology will proceed with work on the draft cleanup action plan. Ecology will make this draft plan available for public review and comment and will continue to update you on the status of the overall cleanup as the process moves along.

Thank you once again for your participation and continued interest in this cleanup effort.

**More Information:** For more information about the details of this decision, please visit Ecology website at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/landsburg\_mine/landsburg\_mine\_hp.html

If you have any questions about this update or the overall cleanup process, please contact the Site Manager at (425) 649-7094, or by email at jcru461@ ecy.wa.gov. For information about public involvement for this site or to be added to the mailing list, contact Justine Asohmbom, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (425) 649-7135 or by email at juas461@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Jerome B. Cruz

Site Manager

Toxic Cleanup Program

JBC:JA:ll